

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 15 are presented for examination in the present application upon entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment.

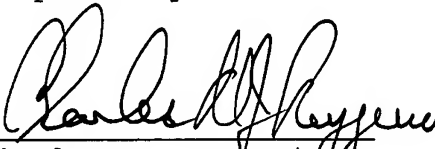
Claims 1 through 15 have been amended to conform to U.S. practice. Specifically, the claims have been amended to include the transitional phrase "comprising", to remove multiple dependencies, and to provide proper antecedent basis for all claim elements. These claim amendments merely make explicit what had been implicit in the claims and, thus, should not affect the scope of equivalents to which the claims are entitled.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Applicant respectfully request favorable consideration and passage of this application to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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